

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the non-final Official Action mailed **August 25, 2004** (Paper No. 8). Reconsideration of the application in light of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

By the forgoing amendment, the specification and various claims have been amended. No claims are cancelled, and new claims 26-37 have been added. Thus, claims 1-37 are currently pending for the Examiner's consideration.

In the outstanding Office Action, there was an objection to an informality in claim 15. Claim 15 has been amended to correct the informality and is thought to be no longer subject to objection. Notice to this effect is respectfully requested.

The only other issue raised in the Office Action is a rejection of claim 1-28 as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102 by U.S. Patent No. 6,351,471 to Robinett et al.

("Robinett"). For at least the following reasons, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 15 recites

A re-multiplexer module for transmitting a plurality of output data streams from a plurality of input data streams, the re-multiplexer module being configured for use in a packet processing system, comprising:

an input processing portion that receives a plurality of input data streams containing data packets, the input processing portion having a plurality of input interfaces, a plurality of input processors, and a plurality of packet identifier tables, each input interface and packet identifier table corresponding with one of said plurality of input streams;

a plurality of packet buffers for storing data packets of said input streams, each packet buffer receiving an input from one of said plurality of input processors;

an output processing portion that selectively multiplexes data packets from said plurality of buffers to generate at least two output data streams, the output processing portion having at least two output interfaces; and

a host processor that controls the operation of the input processing portion and the output processing portion.  
(emphasis added).

Similar subject matter is recited in claim 6.

In contrast, Robinett does not teach or suggest “a plurality of packet identifier tables” where each such table corresponds with “one of said plurality of input streams.” In this regard, the Office Action points out the cache 114 of Robinett that stores a filter map which can be downloaded and modified by a processor. This, however, is just one filter map. It is not a plurality of packet identifier tables and there is no correspondence between individual packet identifier tables and particular input streams.

"A claim is anticipated [under 35 U.S.C. § 102] only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 2 U.S.P.Q.2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987) (emphasis added). See M.P.E.P. § 2131. For at least this reason, the rejection of claims 6 and 15-25 should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claim 1 recites:

A re-multiplexer module for transmitting a plurality of output data streams from a plurality of input data streams, comprising:  
an input processing portion that receives a plurality of input data streams containing data packets;  
a plurality of packet buffers for storing data packets of said input streams;  
an output processing portion that selectively multiplexes data packets from said plurality of buffers to generate at least two output data streams; and  
a host processor that controls the operation of the input processing portion and the output processing portion,  
wherein said module also extracts messages from said input data streams and selectively adds messages to any of said at least two output data streams.

In contrast, Robinett does not teach or suggest extracting messages from input data streams and selectively adding messages to one or more of the output data streams. Again,

"[a] claim is anticipated [under 35 U.S.C. § 102] only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference."

Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California, 2 U.S.P.Q.2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987) (emphasis added). See M.P.E.P. § 2131. For at least this reason, the rejection of claims 1-14 should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claim 4 recites "wherein the packet identifier table includes an active table and a pending table, wherein the pending table can be modified while the input processing portion is operating from the active table." Claim 17 recites similar subject matter.

In response, the Office Action makes the bald allegation that such subject matter is taught by Robinett and then unhelpfully cites 11 columns of Robinett as support. Applicant has reviewed the cited quarter of Robinett, but does not find a teaching of a packet identifier table that is divided into an active table and a pending table as recited. Under the circumstances, Applicant submits that the Action has failed to meet its burden of appropriately indicating how or where Robinett teaches such subject matter.

For at least these additional reasons, the rejection of claims 4, 5, 17 and 18 should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

The newly-added claims are also thought to be patentable over the prior art of record for either dependence on an allowable independent claim or for reciting subject matter neither taught nor suggested by the prior art of record. Thus, examination and allowance of the newly-added claims is respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, the present application is thought to be clearly in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration of the application in light of these remarks is courteously solicited. If any fees are owed in connection with this paper which have not been elsewhere authorized, authorization is hereby given to charge those fees to Deposit Account 18-0013 in the name of Rader, Fishman & Grauer PLLC. If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions which could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

DATE: 24 November 2004

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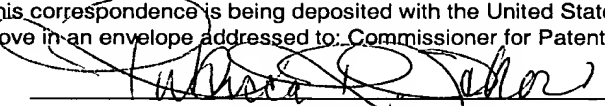
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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

DATE OF DEPOSIT: November 24, 2004

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail on the date indicated above in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

  
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Rebecca R. Schow